his results for curves in space not at all by application of his method, but by simple projection from the Pascal hexagram. M. Folie objects to Veronese's using the term 'involution' instead of 'cyclic homography;' but an examination of the table of contents might have shown him that Veronese devotes a section of his paper to cyclic homographies, and he gives simply a natural extension to the ordinary meaning of the term 'involution.' But, worst of all, M. Folie makes a singular slip in the enunciation of the original question, for there are no points or lines in the figure which are known as the points or lines of either Hesse or Bauer. At the end, Veronese turns the tables upon his opponent, and points out several striking inconsistencies in his memoirs, and several instances of his peculiar 'art of phrasing:' as, "The greater part of these [M. Folie's] theorems had not yet been discovered, in spite of the depth and penetration of geometers;" "To deduce the corollaries from them would be an enterprise which would require, perhaps, years of labor;" "It is a field which I have cleared, and in which those who follow will find an ample harvest of discoveries."

In conclusion, we can but share the regret expressed by the direction of the *Annali*, that academies should so frequently provide unwisely for the advancement of science, either by proposing subjects which are too special, or by compelling authors to follow in their solution a direction determined *a priori*.

Christine Ladd Franklin.

OCCURRENCE OF AMBER NEAR TRENTON, N.J.

At the April meeting of the Trenton natural history society, the occurrence of amber in the bed of Crosswicks Creek was referred to, and no one of those present reported success in searching for it. The authority for its occurrence rests wholly, I believe, upon the statement in Comstock's Mineralogy (Boston, 1827), that it occurs 'near Trenton, N.J.,' and, again, "that found near Trenton occurs in small grains, and rests on lignite, or carbonated wood, or even penetrates it" (p. 297). I have several times met with small grains or pebbles of the mineral in the bed of Crosswicks Creek, and in 1860 found a mass as large as a pea, which I gave to the late W. S. Vaux, Esq., of Philadelphia. These small grains of amber, found in the bed of the creek, are undoubtedly derived from the beds of clay which are exposed in the bluff forming the southern bank of the creek. Clays of the same character and age (cretaceous) occur nearer Trenton than Crosswicks Creek; and in them, also, occurs much fossil wood. In and on this, grains of amber are not uncommon. They are usually very small, and difficult to detect. The fossil wood in this cretaceous clay is soft and very 'recent' in appearance, and burns with an uncertain, flickering flame. The scanty traces of amber found with this — derived, I suppose, from it — is the fossilized sap of the trees now found in these deposits of clay.

Charles C. Abbott.

THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF MAY 6.

The U. S. S. Hartford, which sailed from Callao, Peru, March 22, with the American and English astronomers on board, arrived at Caroline Island April 20, sixteen days before the date of the eclipse. The island is in reality a chain of small islands of coral formation, encircling a lagoon; the length of the enclosure being about seven miles and a half, and the breadth one mile and a half. The land is low, but supports an excellent growth of grass and other vegetation, including a number of cocoanut-trees. There are no permanent inhabitants; but the island is leased by an English firm which deals in guano, cocoanuts, and other products of this and similar Pacific islands. An agent of this firm visits the island occasionally, and superintends the work of those employed. Seven persons were found living on the island for the time being, having been brought there from Tahiti two months before. These were four men, one woman, and two children. There were two large frame houses in excellent condition, besides several smaller houses, which furnished comfortable accommodations for the party, and also for the French astronomers, who arrived two days later in the L'Eclaireur. The latter party was composed of the following scientific men: M. Janssen of Meudon; M. Tacchini of Rome; M. Palisa of Vienna, formerly of Pola; M. Trouvelot of Meudon, formerly of Cambridge, Mass.; and M. Pasteur, photographer, also of Meudon.

The landing of the heavy cases containing the instruments was accomplished with difficulty, as even the small ship's boats could not come within several hundred feet of the shore, which was composed of rough coral rock. The cases were taken from the boats by men standing in about two feet of water, and carried to the shore, thence across several hundred feet of coral rock to the land, and about a quarter of a mile farther to the site selected for the ob-